



News from Diocesan Council

August 2014 to December 2014

August

Appointment - The Bishop announced that Dr Robert Tong is to continue as the Chancellor of the Diocese of The Murray for the next five years. The appointment was greeted with applause by members of the Council.

Clara Street, Murray Bridge and Parish property
The working group investigating these properties and the parish of Murraylands proposed building project after several meetings and constructive conversations presented a vision of a way forward at an open meeting on site for all concerned. Further updates will follow in future editions.

New Pastoral Districts

The two pastoral districts formerly known as Waikerie and Riverland are now known as the Pastoral District of The Riverland.

The parishes of Christies Beach, Happy Valley, Morphett Vale and O'Halloran Hill are now known as the Pastoral District of the Southern Suburbs.

Healing Steps - Diocesan Council encouraged further negotiation with the Diocese of Adelaide about re-introducing the Healing Steps process to work towards any settlement with those who are survivors of abuse.

2015 Ordination Candidates Fund & Home Mission Fund Targets - Council resolved to increase these diocesan wide targets previously unchanged since 2005 to \$15,000 for each Fund.

Review of the Ordinances and Regulations - The Chancellor, the Vicar General, Mrs Jill Hervé and Mr Murray McFarlane were invited by Council to achieve this review.

Professional Standards - The Bishop communicated to the parishes that the one professional standards matter outstanding in the diocese for several years had been brought to a conclusion with a revised decision from the Reviewer.

October

Ms Joy Gilliver the co-author of the *Following Jesus* course addressed the Diocesan Council on the subject "*The Baptised People of God*". Joy recently completed a very successful teaching mission in the diocese which was thought

provoking and stimulating. As a result, both clergy and lay people feel inspired with fresh zeal and encouraged to attempt new ventures. The teaching mission has helped significantly in working with the bishop to realise his vision for the diocese.

Registry Lease - The lease arrangements for the Diocesan Registry have been formalised. The current lease ends 31 January 2016.

The Synod Solicitor - Mr John Strachan received formal thanks for his outstanding work in dealing with professional standards matters over an extended period of time.

Investment Distribution Rate - Paid on all investments held with the diocese was set at 2.5% per annum for the six month period to 30 September 2014.

Robe Land Sale - Council approved the sale of a strip of land in Robe to the owner of the adjoining church block. It was agreed that this would not detract or devalue the church land. Funds raised will assist with the roof restoration project.

December

Diocesan Real Estate Audit - Council has resolved to develop a diocesan assets and property strategy forthwith. The committee invited to investigate will assist in the preparations of a plan with clarity and vision, an outlined business plan and risk assessment and a possible financial way of addressing the substantial expenditure.

Safer Ministry Training - A training manual written for the Diocese of The Murray is expected to be implemented and utilised during training sessions in 2015. Future training dates will be released soon.

Pastoral District Reviews - These triennial reviews noted the recommendation that synod representation be calculated on the same basis as that of parishes.

2015 Meeting dates of Diocesan Council

5 February, 26 March, 11 June,
6 August, 1 October and 3 December

2015 Synod - 29 & 30 May, Woodcroft College.